

## California Coastal Commission: Draft Sea-Level Rise Policy Guidance Document

### California Department of Fish and Wildlife Comments

Overall, we found the Draft Sea-Level Rise Policy Guidance to be very well written, organized, and informative. The level of detail both in the body of the document and the appendices is appropriate, and the amount of decisive information and recommendations is impressive. In particular, the discussion of how to choose SLR projections (from the latest science) and the existing examples of how SLR is being incorporated into LCPs and CDPs were very valuable additions. Also, the intent of the document is made very clear from the offset, which is extremely important in a state policy guidance document. Below are a few comments on the draft SLR guidance:

- Page 23, bullet 3: Consider providing examples (or links to examples) that illustrate how to use a range of scenarios in planning exercises.
- Page 24, bullet 6: Consider defining “coastal resources” earlier in the text. This term could have different interpretations depending on the perspective of the individual reader, so it might be helpful to define the term and perhaps list some examples of different types of coastal resources at the beginning of the document.
- Page 24, bullet 8: What is considered a “hazardous area”? Have those been identified in a way that is consistent along the coast? If not, consider including as a recommendation or research need.
- Page 25, bullet 10: This bullet references the use of nature-based solutions versus armoring. If appropriate, consider adding reference here or later in the report to the recently released TNC document, “Reducing Climate Risks with Natural Infrastructure” <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/california/ca-green-vs-gray-report-2.pdf>
- Page 72: Hyperlinks to the various sections appear to be broken.
- Page 86: In the Research Needs section, consider adding reference to the California Climate Change Research Plan that is currently under development. That effort involves several state agencies and is being led by the CA Energy Commission.
- Page 87, Coastal Habitat Vulnerability bullet: CDFW is currently developing a state-wide climate vulnerability assessment for vegetative communities in California. This will include coastal communities and the consideration of sea-level rise. The work is being conducted in association with the update to the state’s Wildlife Action Plan.
- Page 156, Resources for SLR planning: If appropriate, consider adding the CA Essential Habitat Connectivity Project (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/connectivity/>) and CDFW’s Areas of Conservation Emphasis tool (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/ace/>). These are both resources that may inform LCP or CDP development with respect to the consideration of coastal habitat and wildlife.